

UNCLASSIFIED

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INFO OCT-01 NEA-06 ISO-00 HA-05 TRSE-00 IO-14 CIAE-00
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PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 AID-05 /099 W
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R 211101Z FEB 79
FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
TO SECSTATE WASHC 3063
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

(X) Release () Excise () Deny

Exemption(s):

Declassify: () In Part (X) In Full

() Classify as () Extend as () Downgrade to

Date Declassify on Reason

JERUSALEM 0599

E.O. 12065: GDS 2/20/85 (SMITH, JAMES E.) OR-O

TAGS: SHUM, AR, CI, IS

SUBJECT: [REDACTED] REPORTED DETENTION OF ISRAELI CITIZENS IN ARGENTINA

REF: STATE 036550 (NOTAL)

1. [REDACTED] ENTIRE TEXT)

2. JAN 18 AND 23 ISSUES "LA SEMANA" PUBLISHED IN JERUSALEM DO CARRY REPORTS OF POSSIBLY FOUR INSTANCES OF ISRAELI TOURISTS BEING ARRESTED AND INTERROGATED IN ARGENTINA. IN ADDITION TO "ABUSE AND TORTURE", THE PAPER CLAIMS THAT THE ISRAELI EMBASSY IN ARGENTINA IS LOOKING INTO THE DISAPPEARANCE OF SIX ISRAELIS IN THE SOUTH OF ARGENTINA AS WELL AS THREE ADDITIONAL ISRAELI TOURISTS WHO HAD BEEN "DETAINED."

3. ARTICLE OF JANUARY 18 REPORTS 10 YOUNG ISRAELI TOURISTS ARRESTED IN LATE DECEMBER DURING THE HEIGHT OF THE BEAGLE SITUATION WITH EIGHT OF TEN BEING TORTURED WHILE IN CUSTODY. AFTER DETENTION IN SOUTHERN ARGENTINA, ALL TEN WERE ALLEGEDLY RELEASED AFTER CONVINCING AUTHORITIES THEY WERE ONLY TOURISTS AND UPON CONDITION THEY NOT COMPLAIN TO ISRAELI

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EMBASSY. A SECOND GROUP OF ISRAELIS WERE DETAINED ON DECEMBER 26 UPON GOING FROM CHILI TO ARGENTINA ND

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INTERROGATED FOR 30 HOURS, ACCORDING TO "LA SEMANA."
THE ARTICLE CONCLUDES THAT THE ISRAELI AMBASSADOR IN
ARGENTINA, RAM NIRGAD, PRESENTED A STRONG PROTEST TO THE
ARGENTINIAN GOVERNMENT AND THAT THE EMBASSY STILL CONTINUES
EFFORT TO DISCOVER THE WHEREABOUTS OF THREE TOURISTS
DETAINED (AT SOME UNSPECIFIC PREVIOUS TIME).

4. JANUARY 23 STORY ADDS SIX NEW ISRAELI DISAPPEARANCES
TO PREVIOUS REPORT. ISRAELI EMBASSY, AWARE OF NAMES OF
MISSING, HAS CONTACTED FAMILIES FOR INFORMATION ABOUT THE
MISSING PERSONS' ITINERARIES, ACCORDING TO THIS ITEM.
THE PAPER ALSO REPORTS THAT THE ISRAELI FOREIGN MINISTRY
INFORMALLY CONFIRMED TO THE PAPER THESE REPORTS BUT WAS
UNWILLING TO PROVIDE INFORMATION ABOUT THE PERSONS INVOLVED.

5. COMMENT: THE STAFF MEMBER OF THE PAPER WHO PROVIDED
THE ARTICLES TOLD CONOFF THAT PAPER WAS AWARE OF NAMES OF
SOME INVOLVED; THESE COULD BE PERSONS REPORTED MISSING
PARA THREE

6. ORIGINAL TEXTS BEING AIR POUCHED TO DEPARTMENT (ARA/ECA)
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